YouthNet Editorial for Donation of Programs and Services­ (Class exercise)

For many children, soccer practice and art class are just another part of the week, scheduled somewhere between school and family dinners.

For the children of Halifax’s North End, sports and arts programs are a luxury, and one that very few of them are lucky enough to experience.

Saint George’s YouthNet is a small organization dedicated to giving students of Saint Patrick Alexandria’s Elementary School the opportunities they deserve.

YouthNet, located in Saint George’s Church on Brunswick Street, provides after-school care to roughly 25 students in the area. Many children supported by YouthNet come from broken homes and poor living conditions. YouthNet inspires these children to put their energy into constructive activities like sports, recreation and creative arts, instead of acting out at school, home, or in the community.

Over the years, the program has offered the occasional dance class or art lesson, but space restrictions and a lack of funding have made such programs difficult to pursue.

The struggling non-profit organization needs help. With looming school closures and a growing need for their services, the group’s success is at risk.

Members of the community and the school have seen first-hand how much of an impact YouthNet has had on the lives of the children who attend. The program gives children a safe place to learn about themselves, develop their social skills, and grow into strong, successful people. For some of the kids, YouthNet’s lunch program provides their only healthy meal in a day.

Community members have previously donated toys, lessons and food, but YouthNet knows it can’t rely on that kind of generosity forever.

What if YouthNet could give these children the safe and care-free childhood they deserve? If a weekly dance class can inspire a little girl to be a ballerina, or if an art class can help a struggling fifth-grader discover something he is proud of, what’s stopping those fortunate enough to have access to these resources from giving a little bit back?